of Baroda (BOB) are as under:—

(i) A demand draft for Rs. 50,000 was deposited in the newly opened current account in the name of M/s. Parveen Hide Company at Hapur Branch of BOB and Rs. 35,000 was withdrawn by Ms. Parveen on 13.12.1996. The Branch received a mail transfer dated 16.12.1996 purportedly issued by its Latouche Road, Kanpur Branch for Rs. 8.50 lakhs favouring the firm. Enquiry with Latouche Road Branch revealed that the draft and mail transfer were not issued by them. FIR was lodged with local police at Hapur on 21.12.1996. Police arrested Ms. Parveen, her two other accomplices and five other persons including the watchman and the clerk of Latouche Road Branch. The watchman and the clerk have been placed under suspension.

(ii) An account in the name of M/s. B.R. Enterprises was opened in January, 1995 at Clock Tower, Ghaziabad Branch of BOB. On 20.10.1995, one mail transfer for Rs. 6.80 lakhs purported to have been issued by Sisamau, Kanpur Branch of BOB was credited to the account and several withdrawals aggregating Rs. 3.30 lakhs were allowed from this account. The fraud came to light when the Clock Tower, Ghaziabad Branch contacted Sisamau, Kanpur Branch and it was revealed that the mail transfer for Rs. 6.80 lakhs was a fake one. FIR was lodged with the police.

(iii) During periodical inspection of Muzaffurnagar Branch of BOB in December, 1996, it was found that a draft book containing 50 demand drafts was missing. Instructions were issued to all the branches to exercise caution in making payments against stolen drafts. However, 12 demand drafts for Rs. 26.18 lakhs had already been paid by the Bulandshahar and Akbarpur Branches of BOB in September-October, 1996. The enquiry carried out by the bank revealed certain lapses such as absence of joint control of security forms and periodical physical verification of stock of security forms at Muzaffurnagar Branch and non-observance of caution in high value transactions at Bulandshahar and Akbarpur Branches. The concerned Zonal Offices have been advised to issue specific instructions to all branches for physical verification of security forms. FIR has been lodged by Muzaffurnagar Branch in December, 1996. Akbarpur Branch has also lodged FIR with the police who have arrested one of the account holders. The accountant of Muzaffurnagar branch has been suspended.

Reserve Bank of India has advised all the banks to strictly adhere to the prescribed procedures and guidelines in regard to opening and operating of bank accounts. The banks have also been advised to exercise due caution for verification of drawer's signatures, supervision over issue of cheque books and control over custody of blank cheques/leaves, safe custody of bank drafts and mail transfer forms as security items etc. The RBI inspecting officers also scrutinise the records of the banks on sample basis to see whether the prescribed guidelines/instructions in regard to opening of new accounts are scrupulously followed.

Vacancies of Chairmen of Public Sector Banks

1091. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of public sector banks which are functioning without their chairmen and the reasons for not filling up these vacancies;

(b) the details of vacancies which are likely to occur during the current year; and

(c) whether the prospective incumbents have not been selected, if so, the reasons therefor and by when these are proposed to be selected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The posts of Chairmen and Managing Directors which are presently lying vacant and those likely to occur during the current year are as under:—

Sr. No.	*Name of the Post Existing Vacancies*
1.	Chairman and Managing Director, Canara Bank.
2.	Chairman and Managing Director, UCO Bank.
3.	Chairman and Managing Director, Corporation Bank.

Anticipated Vacancies

4. Chairman, State Bank of India.
5. Chairman and Managing Director, Bank of India.
6. Chairman and Managing Director, Bank of Maharashtra.
7. Chairman and Managing Director, Central Bank of India.
8. Chairman and Managing Director, Syndicate Bank.

(c) The prospective incumbents to be appointed to fill up the vacancies mentioned at Sr. Nos. 1 to 6 above have been identified and approval of the competent authority have been sought for their appointments. The vacancies mentioned at Sr. Nos. 7 and 8 above shall arise only in October, 1997 and December, 1997 respectively.

Employment of clerical staff in State Bank of Indore

1092. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that clerical staff can be employed in State Bank of Indore only through SBI Recruitment Board;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the Chief Manager of Connaught Circus Branch had employed computer operators without any procedure of SBI Recruitment Board;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action has been taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) State Bank of Indore has reported that its clerical staff is recruited through Banking Service Recruitment Boards located at various places in the Country. The bank has added that apart from such recruitments, certain recruitments are done by the bank directly under sport quota or on compassionate grounds in accordance with extant guidelines.

(b) The bank has reported that no such employment has been made by their Connaught Circus (New Delhi) Branch.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Targets for collection of Excise and Customs Duties

1093. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for the collection of both union excise and customs duties during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) how far these have been realised; and

(c) details of the steps taken to improve realisation through these taxes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Budget estimates for realisation of customs and union excise duties (exclusive of cesses not administered by the Department of Revenue) are as under:

(Rs. Crore)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Customs	25200	29500	44435
Union Excise	36531	42579	46592

(b) As per departmental records, revenue realised from customs and union excise duties (exclusive of cesses not administered by the Department of Revenue) is as under:—

(Rs. Crore)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Apr.—Jan.)
			(provisional)
Customs	26683	35502	34812
Union Excise	37467	40565	36085

(c) Appropriate legal and other administrative measures are taken from time to time to maximise collection of revenue during 1996-97.

वित्त मंत्री द्वारा किए गए विदेशी दौरे

1094. **श्री शिवचरण सिंह:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछले दो महीने के दौरान उनके द्वारा ऐसे कितने विदेशी दौरे किए गए जिनमें आर्थिक नीति संबंधी समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए, इनका देश-वार ब्यौरा क्या है; और